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## CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### Newton Historical Commission

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#### \* A G E N D A \*

Date: September 8, 2014

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Room 220, Law Conference Room  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA

Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

James Freas  
Acting Director  
Planning & Development

#### Members

David Morton, Acting-Chair  
Mark Armstrong  
Rodney Barker  
Jean Fulkerson  
Nancy Grissom  
William Roesner  
Laura Fitzmaurice, Alternate  
Ellen Klapper, Alternate  
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- **Is the NHC overreaching?** Are we casting too wide a net or, conversely, are we not casting it wide enough? I've spoken with people who have expressed both sentiments. There are clearly residents who are still alarmed at the pace of demolition citywide. On the other hand, others argue that our commission has been tasked with addressing issues that should be resolved through zoning reform. Are we looking at too many properties or not enough? Are we trying to save structures that don't warrant preservation?
- **Non-transferable preferably preserved determinations** I know that we've all already weighed in on this. That being said, one of our brethren thinks the issue deserves to be aired more thoroughly. In light of the ramifications of the previous issue, I don't disagree.
- **Conflict of interest** I'd like us to have a brief discussion on this subject so we're all clear about the kind of circumstances that might dictate having to recuse ourselves from being a part of the deliberation for a specific property. Any conflict, either real or perceived, opens us up to criticism of playing favorites.
- **Proposed demolition moratorium** Alderman Sangiolo has docketed an item to look at a solution to the issue of too many houses throughout the city being torn down.
- **Historic trees** Aldermen Sangiolo and Danberg are requesting creation of an ordinance to protect trees deemed historic by the Historical Commission and the City's Tree Warden. This item is noted in the agenda for the ZAP committee hearing on 9/4/14. Should it gain any traction, I can envision someone coming to us seeking input regarding the criteria that might be used to distinguish between historic trees and non-historic ones. Perhaps a more appropriate place to start is do we think this is a worthwhile idea to begin with? And are we interested in adding trees to our list of responsibilities?

\*Supplementary materials are available for public review in the Planning Department on the second floor of City Hall by one week before the meeting. For more information **contact the Planning and Development Department at 617.796.1120**. The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need a special accommodation, please contact John Lojek, at least two days in advance of the meeting: [jllojek@newtonma.gov](mailto:jllojek@newtonma.gov) . or 617-796-1064. For Telecommunications Relay Service dial 711.